

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1577–S1621

Measures Introduced: Thirty-four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1, 784–816, and S. Res. 119–121. **Pages S1613–14**

Measures Passed:

George Daniel Crowe: Senate agreed to S. Res. 121, honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Daniel Crowe. **Page S1620**

SAVE LIVES Act: Senate passed H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S1620**

Padilla (for Tester/Moran) Amendment No. 1400, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1620**

Major Richard Star Act—Referral: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 344, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Armed Services. **Page S1620**

Becerra Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S1582–S1609**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 124), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1582–83**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021; and that the post-cloture debate time on the nomination expire at 12 noon; provided further that following the disposition of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Mas-

sachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh ripen at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021. **Page S1620**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. EX. 123), Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S1580–82, S1621**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years.

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment). **Page S1621**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1612–13**

Measures Referred: **Page S1620**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S1577**

Executive Communications: **Page S1613**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1613**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1614–15**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1615–19**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1611–12**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1619**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1619–20**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—124) **Pages S1582–83**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:22 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday,

March 18, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1620.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the income and wealth inequality crisis in America, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Reich, University of California Goldman School of Public Policy, Berkeley; Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies, John W. Lettieri, Economic Innovation Group, and Scott Winship, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Bates, Amazon BHM1, Bessemer, Alabama.

EXPANDING BROADBAND

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recent Federal actions to expand broadband, after receiving testimony from Christopher Ali, University of Virginia Department of Media Studies, Charlottesville; Michael P. O'Rielly, former Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, Arlington, Virginia; Jon Wilkins, Quadra Partners, Washington, D.C.; and Justin Forde, Midcontinent Communications, West Fargo, North Dakota.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water to examine the challenges facing drinking water and waste water infrastructure projects, after receiving testimony from Shellie R. Chard, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma City, on behalf of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators; Kishia L. Powell, DC Water, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Michael McNulty, Morgantown Utility Board, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Nathan Ohle, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Falls Church, Virginia.

COVID-19 IN NURSING HOMES

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID-19 in the Nation's nursing homes, including steps taken by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to pandemic, after receiving testimony from John E. Dicken, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Adelina Ramos, SEIU District

1199 New England, Greenville, Rhode Island; Denise Bottcher, AARP Louisiana, Baton Rouge; R. Tamara Konetzka, University of Chicago Department of Public Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois; Quiteka Moten, State of Tennessee Long Term Care Ombudsman, Nashville; and David R. Gifford, American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, Washington, D.C.

STRATEGIC COMPETITION WITH CHINA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing effective U.S. policy for strategic competition with China in the twenty-first century, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Economy, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York; and Thomas H. Shugart III, Center for New American Security, and Saif M. Khan, Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 231, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 583, to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies;

S. 517, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism;

S. 671, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies;

S. 693, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses;

S. 658, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training;

S. 636, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, with an amendment;

S. 688, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime;

S. 522, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule;

S. 111, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices;

S. 664, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives;

S. 566, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the “Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office”;

H.R. 208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the “Colonel Carlyle ‘Smitty’ Harris Post Office”; and

H.R. 264, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building”.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Leland Levine, of

Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

EQUALITY ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Equality Act, focusing on LGBTQ rights, after receiving testimony from Senators Merkley, Baldwin, Blackburn, Hyde-Smith, and Lankford; Representatives Cicilline, Newman, and Hartzler; Alphonso David, Human Rights Campaign, New York, New York; Edith Guffey, PFLAG National, Lawrence, Kansas; Mary Hasson, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.; Stella Keating, Tacoma, Washington; and Abigail Shrier, Los Angeles, California.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Paycheck Protection Program, focusing on performance, impact, and next steps, including S. 723, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, after receiving testimony from Lisa Mensah, Opportunity Finance Network, and Joel Griffith, The Heritage Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; John K. Hoey, The Y in Central Maryland, Baltimore; and Brad Polumbo, Foundation for Economic Education, Arlington, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 1953–1995; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 243–250, were introduced. **Pages H1497–H1500**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1501–02**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment: The House passed H.J. Res. 17, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 82.

Pages H1419–32, H1475–76

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R. 1603), (H.R. 1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to yesterday, March 16th.

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1620, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, by a yea-and-nay vote of 244 yeas to 172 nays, Roll No. 86. **Pages H1432–75, H1476–79**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–3, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–12, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1432**

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–12: Burgess (No. 1) that requires the DOJ and HHS to issue guidance and best practices on strategies to improve coordination of sexual assault forensic examination training and program sustainability; Bush (No. 2) that ensures that survivors can access transitional housing and be protected from unfair evictions and denial of service; Bush (No. 3)

that requires the Attorney General shall make publicly available on the Department of Justice website reports involving police sexual misconduct; Case (No. 4) that ensures the inclusion of Native Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian groups; requires a review and subsequent Department of Justice report of Native Hawaiian interactions with the criminal justice system and related crime prevention programs to add to pre-existing data on Native Indians and Alaska Natives; Connolly (No. 5) that adds the right to be informed of the status and location of a sexual assault evidence collection kit to the rights of sexual assault survivors; Crist (No. 6) that clarifies that STOP grants can be used to cover the fees associated with replacing driver's licenses and birth certificates for survivors and their children; will provide survivors and their families with life-saving assistance as they take steps to build a safe and independent life; Rodney Davis (IL) (No. 7) that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to include in their Study and Report on Barriers to Survivors' Economic Security Access (Sec. 704), the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on such survivors as it relates to their ability to maintain economic security; Delgado (No. 8) that adds to the findings on Economic Security for Victims that individuals living in rural areas facing intimate partner violence often face barriers to accessing resources, ranging from health care to the criminal justice system; Delgado (No. 9) that requires an analysis of the unique barriers faced by survivors in rural communities in the study on barriers to survivors' economic security; Dingell (No. 10) that establishes pilot program grants (up to 10) through the Department of Justice to state and tribal courts, offering them the opportunity to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of serving protection orders electronically; Kaehle (No. 11) that ensures appropriate consultation and inclusion with indigenous groups to support the tailored needs of indigenous women; Lamb (No. 12) that adds training for sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE nurses) to VAWA's Rural Programs, to expand access to and retention of quality SANE nurses in rural areas; Lawrence (No. 13) that amends Section 102 (Grants Encouraging Improvements and Alternatives to the Criminal Justice Response), to authorize grants to also be used for the purpose of better identifying and responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking against individuals who have been arrested or have contact with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system, and for developing or strengthening diversion programs and to ensure they receive comprehensive victim services; Lawrence (No. 14) that incentivizes states to adopt laws prohibiting the prosecution of minors for prostitution; Leger

Fernandez (No. 15) that directs the Office on Violence Against Women to report on actions taken to prevent suicide amongst survivors and to consult with SAMHSA to establish best practices to prevent suicide amongst survivors; Leger Fernandez (No. 16) that requires that services provided pursuant to grants to support families in the justice system are provided in a culturally relevant manner and requires DOL's public outreach and education campaign to be conducted in a culturally relevant manner; Levin (MI) (No. 17) that amends Sec. 101 (STOP Grants) to add "implementing a vertical prosecution system" to the list of permissible uses for STOP grants; Meng (No. 18) that ensures family-focused programming for prisoners—from intake through reentry—to support the prisoners' familial needs, as well as provide appropriate training for correctional staff to engage with prisoners' families; Meng (No. 19) that ensures clear distribution and accessibility of sanitary products to prisoners and provides that no visitor is prohibited from visiting due to the visitor's use of sanitary products; Moore (No. 20) that authorizes a study on the intersection between domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, and maternal mortality or morbidity; Moore (No. 21) that authorizes and expands programs offering sexual assault medical forensic exams and sexual assault victim services in tribal communities; Newman (No. 22) that requires grant applicants of the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to include microbusiness in their outreach to qualify; Omar (No. 23) that includes credit history in the GAO economic barrier study; Omar (No. 24) that includes barriers of legal costs and jurisdictional challenges in the GAO economic study; Phillips (No. 25) that establishes a pilot program to identify and make immigration relief available to immigrants who are dependent upon their abusers for immigration status and have been subject to battering or extreme cruelty and have already been authorized for employment; Plaskett (No. 26) that establishes a civil cause of action against a person that discloses an intimate image of an individual without the depicted individual's consent, if the person disclosed the image with knowledge of or reckless disregard for such lack of consent; Pressley (No. 27) that establishes LGBTQ+ specific grants and services to LGBTQ+ victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; Ross (No. 28) that revises the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to allow grants to be used to for the development of statewide databases with information on where sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE nurses) are located; Ross (No. 29) that creates a statutory mandate that a victim's safety should be central to the housing and housing-related decisions that covered housing

providers make when implementing VAWA to not evict survivors, keep their information confidential, and do not deny assistance; Scanlon (No. 30) that provides legal representation to individuals for post conviction relief proceedings; Scanlon (No. 31) that creates a pathway for providing legal services through the Department of Veterans Affairs to address unmet needs such as elder law, child custody, and housing disputes; Speier (No. 32) that adds the Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution Act (the “SHIELD Act”) to the bill, which addresses the malicious sharing of private, intimate images, known as “nonconsensual pornography” or “revenge porn”; Speier (No. 33) that directs the Secretary of Education to make available a climate survey for institutions of higher education to administer to students on their experiences with sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence; Speier (No. 34) that establishes an Interagency Task Force on Sexual Violence in Education to provide pertinent information to the government, public, and educational institutions on campus sexual violence prevention and response, as well as how to better assist survivors; Speier (No. 35) that builds on the unanimous passage of the Survivors’ Bill of Rights Act establishing rights for survivors of federal sexual assault offenses by incentivizing states to ensure that survivors have, at a minimum, the rights guaranteed by the federal law; includes the right to be informed if the government intends to destroy or dispose of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, the right to be informed of any result of a kit, and the right to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit or its probative contents preserved without charge for the maximum applicable statute of limitations or 20 years, whichever is shorter; Torres (CA) (No. 37) that requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of HHS, to conduct a study investigating whether abused victims who raise evidence of domestic violence are more likely to lose primary custody of their children to an abusive partner or to the State, including reviewing and providing recommendations on restructuring relevant state laws, regulations, and practices; Torres (CA) (No. 38) that requires the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of HHS, to conduct a study on the direct and collateral economic costs and risks of divorce from an abusive partner to a victim of domestic violence, including payment of alimony, legal fees, spousal support, or the division of property; Torres (NY) (No. 39) that mandates state and local governments submit to the Attorney General a report on the number of sexual assault response teams at hospitals and their average victim response times to be eligible for certain federal funds; and Williams (No. 41) that ensures any

study conducted under this bill includes an assessment, to the extent practicable, of any disparate impacts of the matter studied, by race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity (by a yeas-and-nays vote of 228 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 83); and

Pages H1463–72, H1476–77

Wagner amendment (No. 40 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–12) that enhances VAWA’s transparency and accountability measures by making entities found by the Attorney General to have intentionally misused VAWA grant funds ineligible to apply for future grants for up to 5 years, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing (by a yeas-and-nays vote of 242 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 84).

Pages H1474–75, H1477–78

Rejected:

Stefanik amendment (No. 36 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–12) that sought to strike all and replace the text with the Violence Against Women Extension Act of 2021 (by a yeas-and-nays vote of 177 yeas to 249 nays, Roll No. 85). **Pages H1472–74, H1478**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R.1603), (H.R.1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to yesterday, March 16th.

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Awarding three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021: H.R. 1085, amended, to award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 413 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 87;

Page H1480

COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021: H.R. 1651, amended, to amend the CARES Act to extend the sunset for the definition of a small business debtor, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 399 yeas to 14 nays, Roll No. 88; and

Pages H1480–81

VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021: H.R. 1652, amended, to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 384 yeas to 38 nays, Roll No. 89.

Pages H1481–82

Clerk to Correct Engrossment: Agreed by unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 1620, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

Page H1482

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 244, electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Page H1482

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1475–76, H1476–77, H1477, H1478, H1479, H1480, H1480–81, and H1481–82.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CLIMATE CHANGE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND THE ARCTIC

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “Climate Change, National Security, and the Arctic”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DHS MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “DHS Management Challenges”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Domestic Manufacturing for a Clean Energy Future”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE: THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION POST COVID–19

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing entitled “Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID–19”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEADING THE WAY FORWARD: BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS TO INCREASE COVID–19 VACCINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID–19 Vaccinations”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; and Peter Marks, M.D., Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation

and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

AVERTING A CRISIS: PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. TERRITORIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Averting a Crisis: Protecting Access to Health Care in the U.S. Territories”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Sablan, Radewagen, Plaskett, González-Colón, and San Nicolas; Anne Schwartz, Executive Director, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission; and Carolyn Yocom, Government Accountability Office.

GAME STOPPED? WHO WINS AND LOSES WHEN SHORT SELLERS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND RETAIL INVESTORS COLLIDE, PART II

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide, Part II”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY: THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN BELARUS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber held a hearing entitled “Women Leading the Way: The Democratic Movement in Belarus”. Testimony was heard from a public witness.

UPDATE ON COVID–19 IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights held a hearing entitled “Update on COVID–19 in Africa”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE WAY FORWARD ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Way Forward on Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

FROM RESCUE TO RECOVERY: BUILDING A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled “From Rescue to Recovery: Building a Thriving and Inclusive Post-Pandemic Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BRAIN DRAIN: REBUILDING THE FEDERAL SCIENTIFIC WORKFORCE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled “Brain Drain: Rebuilding the Federal Scientific Workforce”. Testimony was heard from Candice Wright, Acting Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Business Case for Climate Solutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its rules for the 117th Congress. This meeting was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on the planning, programming, budget, and execution process of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the 21st century economy, focusing on protecting the financial system from risks associated with climate change, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine fighting forced labor, focusing on closing loopholes and improving customs enforcement to mandate clean supply chains and protect workers, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the COVID–19 response, focusing on an update from Federal officials, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the SolarWinds supply chain attack, focusing on the Federal perspective, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/WEBEX.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S. 169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and

the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to resume joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 one year later, focusing on addressing health care needs for at-risk Americans, 9:30 a.m., VTC.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Efforts to Address Marine Plastic Pollution Through Recycling”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “COVID Outbreaks and Management Challenges: Evaluating the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Pandemic Response and the Way Forward”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “Unmanned Systems of the Department of the Navy”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, joint hearing entitled “Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “The CLEAN Future Act: Industrial Climate Policies to Create Jobs and Support Working Communities”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, hearing entitled “By the Numbers, How Diversity Data Can Measure Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “Assessing the Human Rights Situation in Saudi Arabia”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Year Out: Addressing International Impacts of the COVID–19 Pandemic”, 2:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1833, the “DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021”; H.R. 1850, the “Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act”; H.R. 1870, the “Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021”; H.R. 1871, the “Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act”; H.R. 1877, the “Security Screening During COVID–19 Act”; H.R. 1893, the “Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021”; and legislation on the Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, hearing entitled “Reviving Competition, Part 3: Strengthening the Laws to Address Monopoly Power”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Restoring Abandoned Mine Lands, Local Economies, and the Environment”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Lessons Learned from the Texas Blackouts: Research Needs for a Secure and Resilient Grid”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development, hearing entitled “The Role of Community Navigators in Reaching Underserved Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Building Smarter: The Benefits of Investing in Resilience and Mitigation”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Beyond Deborah Sampson: Improving Healthcare for America’s Women Veterans in the 117th Congress”, 2:30 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Hearing with the IRS Commissioner on the 2021 Filing Season”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to resume joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, March 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, and vote on confirmation thereon at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Thursday, March 18

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 6—American Dream and Promise Act of 2021. Consideration of H.R. 1603—Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021. Consideration of H.R. 1868—To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts.

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